

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 208318

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LIOPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD POLAD

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PAGE 02 STATE 208318

UNCLAS STATE 208318

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 19 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SCHANBERG (NYT) WRITES FROM STILL-SURROUNDED KOMPONG CHAM THAT LOW-LEVEL FIGHTING GOES ON AT CITY'S EDGES THOUGH THREAT HAS RECEDED. FIRING IS CONTINUOUS AND CASUALTIES MOUNT; RIVER CONVOYS ATTACKED. KI AGAIN CUT AIRPORT ROAD BUT FANK MAKES NO PROGRESS IN RE-OPENING IT. TOWN EMPTY, WITH CIVIL POPULATION DOWN FROM PERHAPS 50,000, INCLUDING REFUGEES, BEFORE THE BATTLE TO ABOUT 10,000 NOW. SOME DIED, THOSE WHO COULD AFFORD IT BOUGHT TRANSPORT TO PP ON BOATS AND CHOPPERS, AND POSSIBLY 30,000 ABDUCTED BY KI. REMAINING CIVILIANS FEEL TRAPPED, DON'T OPENLY SPECULATE ON FUTURE BUT ARE HAUNTED BY THOUGHT OF ANOTHER KI ASSAULT WHEN DRY SEASON ARRIVES IN DEC. SCHANBERG SAYS LIFE SEEMS ODDLY MEANINGLESS HERE AT SITE OF ONLY MAJOR GKR VICTORY IN 3-1/2 YEARS OF WAR.

2. GKR FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES SAY 27 SOVIET DIPLOMATS AND FAMILIES WILL DEPART PP ON SPECIAL FLIGHT NEXT WEEK, LEAVING ONLY 3-MAN LOW-LEVEL STAFF TO MAINTAIN EMBASSY. ACTION FOLLOWS RECENT SOVIET STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF SIHANOUK (AP, NYDN; CSM).

3. UNGA VOTES 68 TO 24 TO TAKE UP QUESTION OF CAMBODIA REPRESENTATION, BUT NO DATE SET FOR DEBATE ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR (CSM).

4. US EMBASSY RESTRICTS TRAVEL OUTSIDE SAIGON FOLLOWING REPORTED COMMUNIST TROOP MOVEMENTS NORTH OF BIEN HOA; FIRST SUCH RESTRICTION IN SEVERAL MONTHS; 20 COMMUNISTS KILLED IN BATTLE 40 MILES SW OF SAIGON
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 208318

AS GVN REPORTS INCREASING COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS (REUTER).

5. TWO MEMBERS OF NOBEL PEACE PRIZE COMMITTEE RESIGN TO PROTEST AWARD TO KISSINGER AND THO AS NORWEGIANS DEBATE REORGANIZATION AND PRINCIPLES OF NOBEL COMMITTEE (WP).

6. GVN NEGOTIATOR HIEP SAYS NOTHING IS EVER ACCOMPLISHED DURING SAIGON CEASEFIRE TALKS WITH NVN BECAUSE OF WINDY PROPAGANDA STATEMENTS. SOME PROGRESS, HOWEVER, DURING COFFEE BREAKS (CHITRIB).

7. GRENADE EXPLOSION IN SAIGON MOVIE THEATER WOUNDS 10; LAID TO SCUFFLE INVOLVING SOLDIERS (UPI, NHDN).

8. AILING VP TRAN VAN HUONG TO GO ABROAD SOON SEEKING MEDICAL TREATMENT (NYDN).

CHINA

9. TRUDEAU ARRIVES HOME FROM PRC VISIT; SAYS CHINESE INDICATED THEY WANT TO CONSIDER CANADA "COUNTRY OF PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN GOODS AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PLANTS," AND HE EXPECTS GOOD PROGRESS IN SINO-CANADIAN TRADE RELATIONS (REUTER).

10. TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL'S BURNS, IN KWEILIN, REPORTS THAT SEVERAL CANADIAN NEWSMEN ACCOMPANYING TRUDEAU PARTICIPATED IN "HOTLINE" RADIO SHOWS WHILE THERE, DEALING WITH HUNDREDS OF INQUIRIES FROM CANADIANS TELEPHONED TO CHINA. SAYS EXPERIENCE REVEALED "WIDESPREAD IGNORANCE ABOUT CHINESE LIFE" AMONG CANADIAN CALLERS. SOMETIMES THAT IGNORANCE WAS COUPLED WITH STRONG PREJUDICE AGAINST COMMUNISM, BUT MORE COMMON ATTITUDE AMONG CALLERS WAS ONE OF CURIOSITY AND HUNGER FOR INFO THAT THE NEWSMEN -- THEMSELVES NEWCOMERS TO CHINA -- WERE NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO PROVIDE. POINT IS ONE THAT TRUDEAU MAY WELL HAVE PRESSED ON CHOU. CANADA IS ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP GREATER ACCESS TO CHINA FOR CANADIAN JOURNALISTS, AND POSSIBLE STEP IN THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 208318

DIRECTION MAY TAKE PLACE SOON WHEN DELEGATION OF CANADIAN PRESS REPS WILL TOUR CHINA, REPAYING VISIT TO CANADA EARLIER THIS YEAR BY CHINESE EDITORS.

11. FROM HK, JOC'S STRAUSS WRITES THAT INITIAL REPORTS FROM CANTON TRADE FAIR INDICATE THERE HAVE BEEN NO DRASTIC PRICE INCREASES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF SPRING SESSION, AND TRADERS ARE OPTIMISTIC. AMERICAN ATTENDANCE IS ONLY SLIGHTLY ABOVE SPRING FAIR AND LIKELY TO BE AOOOT 150-200. MAJOR NEW CHINESE TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS ON DISPLAY INCLUDE PAIR OF COMPUTERS. "FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW" REPORTS CHINESE PLANNERS TRYING TO SHIFT AWAY FROM RELIANCE ON AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN THEIR EXPORTS; THEY SEE EXPORTS GROWING OF MACHINE TOOLS, HARDWARE,

METERS, INSTRUMENTS, MEDICINES, DYESTUFFS, MEDICAL APPARATUS, BICYCLES AND SEWING MACHINES. CHINESE ALSO EXPECT GROWING SALES OF TACHING CRUDE OIL. STRAUSS NOTES US OILMEN, BOTH TOOL MANUFACTURERS AND MAJOR PETROLEUM COMPANIES, HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR SECOND FAIR.

12. PHINQ ANNOUNCES THAT 80-MEMBER CHINESE OPERA THEATER COMPANY FROM TAIWAN COMING TO PHILADELPHIA NOV. 5 FOR 6 DAYS, OFFERING SCENES FROM CLASSICAL OPERAS. COMPANY IS ON 3-MONTH US TOUR, "MOUNTED AS A CULTURAL COUNTEROFFENSIVE TO THE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS OF COMMUNIST CHINA."

HONG KONG

13. SUN'S WU, IN HK, REPORTS OFFICE OF MARYLAND PORT ADMIN. HAS BEEN OPENED CEREMONIALLY BY PRESTIGIOUS GOVT. AND BUSINESS GROUP FROM MARYLAND. OPENING OF OFFICE COINCIDED WITH CURRENT "AMERICAN FORTNIGHT" -- AN OFFICIALLY-SPONSORED DRIVE TO SELL MORE US GOODS AND SERVICES ABROAD.

THAILAND

14. CM'S WEBBE REPORTS THANOM REMAINED IN SECLUSION IN BOSTON THURSDAY AFTER JETTING INTO CITY WEDNESDAY
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PAGE 05 STATE 208318

AFTERNOON AND DODGING NEWSMEN AT AIRPORT. REACHED BY PHONE, DAUGHTER SONGSUDA SAID THANOM PLANS 6-MONTH US STAY "TO SEE THE COUNTRY"; ADDED THAT THANOM IS NOT STAYING WITH HER AND DOES NOT WANT TO SEE REPORTERS. THAI STUDENTS WHO VISITED HIM IN BOSTON SAY HE PLANS VISITING 2 NEPHEWS NOW LIVING IN NH. WEBBE OBSERVES THAT BOSTON HAS LONG BEEN FAVORITE SPOT FOR THAI STUDENTS, NOTING KING WAS BORN IN CAMBRIDGE WHILE HIS FATHER WAS HARVARD STUDENT.
15. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND PAINTS SANYA PROFILE, NOTING HE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY STUDENTS WHO OVERTHREW MILITARY LEADERS, IS CLOSE TO KING, HAS REPUTATION FOR INCORRUPTIBILITY AND IS DEVOUT BUDDHIST. SAYS THIS BACKGROUND GIVES SANYA GREAT ADVANTAGES IN BUDDHIST COUNTRY THAT HAS GROWN SICK OF CORRUPTION AND THAT IDOLIZES ITS KING. WHILE IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR HOW MUCH POWER HE WILL WIELD, MILITARY -- "WHO STILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE" IN THAI POWER STRUCTURE -- "WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO BE CAREFUL IN THEIR DEALINGS" WITH SANYA. THEY COULD HAVE NEWLY-AWAKENED STUDENTS UP IN ARMS AGAINST THEM IF THEY FAIL TO GIVE NEW PM FAIR CHANCE AT CIVILIAN RULE.

KOREA

16. WP CARRIES FULL-PAGE AD FOR OCT. 20-23 LISNER AUDITORIUM "CHRISTIAN CRUSADE" OF REV. SUN MYUNG MOON.

MALAYSIA

17. REUTER (KUALA LUMPUR) REPORTS 4 STREET CLEANERS WERE INJURED WHEN BOMB EXPLODED IN FRONT OF US LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTER IN KL FRIDAY. POLICE SAY THEY HAVE NO IMMEDIATE INDICATION OF WHO PLANTED BOMB, AND INVESTIGATIONS ARE CONTINUING. CENTER CLOSED SINCE LAST TUESDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS, SCHEDULED TO REOPEN NEXT WEEK.

18. PAN MALAYSIAN ISLAMIC PARTY CALLS ON ALL MALAYSIANS TO BOYCOTT US AND ISRAELI GOODS AS PART OF COUNTRY'S UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 208318

SUPPORT FOR ARABS IN CURRENT MIDEAST WAR. IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN KL WEDNESDAY, PARTY ALSO CONDEMNED US WAR AID TO ISRAEL. SOME OBSERVERS PREDICT MALAYSIANS, WHO BOUGHT ABOUT 100 MILLION DOLLARS IN US GOODS DURING FIRST 8 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, NOT LIKELY TO HEED BOYCOTT CALL (CSM).

JAPAN

19. REUTER (TOKYO) CITES FORNMIN SPOKESMAN'S REPORT ON OHIRA'S FRIDAY HALF-HOUR MEETING WITH ENVOYS OF 10 ARAB COUNTRIES SEEKING JAPAN'S SUPPORT IN MIDEAST STRUGGLE. SPOKESMAN SAYS ENVOYS INDICATED THAT ARAB OIL PRODUCTION CUTBACK WILL NOT AFFECT JAPAN'S SUPPLIES, AND THEY ASKED FOR "POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE AND CLEAR" GOJ SUPPORT OF ARAB CAUSE IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT MIDEAST PEACE. OHIRA REPORTEDLY REITERATED SUPPORT FOR 1967 UNSC RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, SAID JAPAN WILL COOPERATE WITH UN IN SEEKING MIDEAST SOLUTION, AND ASKED THAT ARABS COOPERATE IN ENSURING WAR DOES NOT DISRUPT JAPAN'S OIL SUPPLIES.

20. FROM TOKYO, NYT'S HALLORAN FINDS JAPANESE STUNNED BY ARAB DECISIONS TO INCREASE OIL PRICES AND CUT BACK OIL PRODUCTION. SAYS JAPAN WILL FEEL IMPACT MORE SEVERELY THAN ANY OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATION, SINCE IT MUST IMPORT ALL ITS OIL AND IS WORLD'S SECOND BIGGEST CONSUMER, AFTER US. SEES "DOUBLE

BLOW" ALSO THREATENING TO MAKE JAPAN'S INFLATION EVEN WORSE. WHILE GOJ OFFICIALS CAREFUL IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, PRIVATELY SEVERAL EXPRESSED BITTER RESENTMENT OVER ARAB AND IRANIAN ACTIONS, HALLORAN SAYS -- AND PARTICULARLY BECAUSE MOST JAPANESE CONCERNS HAVE OBSERVED BOYCOTT OF TRADE WITH ISRAEL DEMANDED BY ARABS. IN LONG RUN, MIDEAST ACTION APPEARS LIKELY TO HASTEN JAPANESE EFFORTS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH OIL-PRODUCING NATIONS, RATHER THAN THROUGH OTHER STATES. HOWEVER, JAPANESE HAND IN BARGAINING WITH SOVIET OVER SIBERIAN RESOURCES MAY HAVE BEEN WEAKENED, AND SOVIET MAY NOW HAVE MORE LEVERAGE.
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PAGE 07 STATE 208318

21. JOC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, REPORTS TANAKA ADMIN. HAS BEEN URGED BY FUKUDA TO CONCENTRATE TOP PRIORITY EFFORTS ON CONTROLLING INFLATION WITH GOAL OF CREATING STABLE SOCIETY FOR JAPANESE OR FERTILE GROUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM. IN ANOTHER COLUMN, CULLISON REPORTS THAT JAPANESE STEVEDORES CURRENTLY PLAN TO LAUNCH SECOND PHASE OF THEIR 4-DAY-OLD STRIKE MONDAY BY TYING-UP SHIPS AT ALL MAJOR JAPANESE PORTS.

22. HITACHI MOVING US HEADQUARTERS FROM NY TO LA, AND WILL BEGIN PRODUCTION OF COLOR TV AND COMPACT STEREOS THERE IN JAN. (JOC). GE AND IWASAKI ELECTRIC CO. PLANNING JOINT VENTURE IN JAPAN TO MANUFACTURE

23. ALL PAPERS REPORT THAT NOVELIST PATRICK WHITE IS WINNER OF 1973 NOBEL LITERATURE PRIZE FOR INTRODUCING "NEW CONTINENT" IN LITERARY ART (REUTER; UPI NYDN, CHITRIB; AP, SUN; NYT'S SHUSTER; CSM; PHINQ; WP).

24. CHITRIB'S NEGRONIDA REPORTS WHITLAM IS CARRYING 12,000-DOLLAR BULL AS GIFT TO PRC ON CHINA VISIT.

25. JOC REPORTS OFFICIAL OF ASSOCIATED CONTAINER TRANSPORTATION-PACE TELLING OCT. 18 NY MEETING OF ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD FOREIGN AGENTS THAT AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ARE CONSUMING MUCH LARGER QUANTITIES OF US-MANUFACTURED "LUXURY" ITEMS, AND ARE EXPORTING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO US. CITES OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT CONTAINERIZATION AND INTERMODAL TRANSPORT HAVE GREATLY BENEFITED AUSTRALIAN TRADERS, ENABLING THEM TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS RELATED TO LONG OVERLAND HAULS TO AND FROM PORTS, AND RAIL AND HIGHWAY CARRIERS BOTH GET "FAIR SHARE OF THE BUSINESS." TRUCKERS MOVING SHIPMENTS FROM

PORT OF SYDNEY TO DESTINATION WITHIN SAME STATE
MUST PAY REBATE TO STATE RAILROAD. OFFICIAL ASSERTS
THIS IS "PAIN FOR TRUCKERS," BUT CLAIMS THAT WITH
CARGO TONNAGE INCREASING, BOTH MODES ARE SHOWING
PROFIT.

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PAGE 08 STATE 208318

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

26. LAT'S JACK FOISIE (OCT. 18) IN BANGKOK REPORTS
THAT STUDENTS WHO SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING DOWN THAILAND'S
MILITARY GOVERNMENT ARE NOW WORKING JUST AS
ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO HELP NEW GOVERNMENT RESTORE
TRANQUILITY. SAYS STUDENT SUCCESS IN TOPPLING TWO
RULING FIELD MARSHALS SO SURPRISED THE STUDENTS THEY
ARE STILL WALKING AROUND IN A STATE OF EUPHORIA; BUT
THIS HAS NOT DIMINISHED CAPACITY OF STUDENT LEADERS
FOR CLEAR THINKING AND MODERATION. MORE APPROACHABLE
STUDENT LEADERS EXPRESS AWARENESS THAT SUCCESS INCREASES
NEED FOR "SELF-DISCIPLINE" WITHIN THEIR RANKS. ONE OF
THEM ESTIMATED ONE PERCENT OF LEADERSHIP (ABOUT 200)
AND 20 PERCENT OF THE 100,000 STUDENTS IN UPRISINGS WERE
"COMMUNIST-ORIENTED." FOISIE SAYS SANYA'S REPUTATION
WITH STUDENTS WAS HIGH, EVEN BEFORE REVOLT. NOW HE
HAS ELEVATED THAI NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER TO STATUS
OF "ADVISORY AGENCY" TO PM.

27. FROM BANGKOK, (LAT OCT. 18) MARTIN GETZENDANER,
WHO SPENT SUMMER CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN THAILAND
UNDER HARVARD SPONSORSHIP, NOTES MOOD OF FRUSTRATION
AMONG SEGMENTS OF STUDENT, LABOR, AND FARM POPULATION
WHICH FINALLY LED TO DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE.
MAKING OBSERVATION THAT BANGKOK AND THAILAND ARE
ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY ORGANIZED AS A NEAR-
PERFECT MONOPOLY, GETZENDANER INDICATES THAT GOVERNMENT
AND BUSINESS LEADERS WERE TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH THE
IN-SYSTEM OF FACTIONAL STRUGGLES AND PROFITS TO GOVERN
PROPERLY. SUSPECTS THAT IN SHORT RUN, THE VICTORS
IN THE CURRENT UNREST WILL PROBABLY BE THOSE WHO CAN
CONSOLIDATE SUPPORT WITHIN THE MILITARY. LONG RUN
PROBLEMS ARE NOT SIMPLY THOSE OF NEW CONSTITUTION AND
NEW CABINET, BUT OF SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
REALITIES WITHIN NEW SOCIAL MILIEU.

28. WSJ'S PEARLSTINE IN TOKYO SEES JAPAN FACING
PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC MATURITY. BANKERS, BUSINESSMEN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 208318

AND BUREAUCRATS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO CONTROL INFLATION WITHOUT CURTAILING GROWTH, SEE JAPANESE SHOWING MORE INTEREST IN LIVING BETTER THAN IN WORKING MORE, NOTE THAT ECONOMY IS INCREASINGLY AFFECTED BY WORLD DEVELOPMENTS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, AND WONDER WHETHER CONTROLS, POLICIES AND ASSUMPTIONS THAT HAVE GUIDED JAPAN AND ARE THE BASIS FOR ECONOMISTS' ROSY PROJECTIONS ARE ADEQUATE FOR THE FUTURE. EARLIER

THIS YEAR, GOJ ECON PLANNERS FORECAST THAT WHOLESAL PRICES WOULD RISE ONLY 2 PERCENT IN FISCAL YEAR ENDING NEXT MARCH 31 AND THAT CONSUMER PRICES WOULD RISE ONLY 5.5 PERCENT. BUT WHOLESAL PRICES INCREASED 2.1 PERCENT IN AUGUST ALONE, AND HAVE JUMPED 17.4 PERCENT IN THE PAST 12 MTHS. CONSUMER PRICES ARE 14.5 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO AND ARE INCREASING AT FASTEST RATE IN 20 YEARS. TO CURB PRICE INCREASES, GOJ HAS TAKEN SEVERE AND UNPOPULAR MEASURES, WHICH ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO HOLD DOWN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND HURT ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS. IT RECENTLY AGREED TO POSTPONE 8 PERCENT OF THIS YEAR'S PLANNED EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC WORKS; MITI SAID A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT IT WILL REQUIRE MANY OF JAPAN'S MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES TO HOLD DOWN PLANT AND EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT; BANK OF JAPAN HAS ADOPTED MEASURES DESIGNED TO REDUCE MONEY OVERSUPPLY. FOMIN AICHI RECENTLY SAID IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER LIMITING WAGE INCREASES TO MATCH RISES IN PRODUCTIVITY, BUT POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO SUCH CONTROLS IS SO GREAT IT IS UNLIKELY THEY WILL BE IMPOSED SOON.

29. IN SYDNEY, LAT'S DAVID LAMB (OCT 18) EXAMINES AUSTRALIA'S SPREADING MANURE PROBLEM AND MAJOR EFFORTS TO WIPE IT UP BY THE BUSY AFRICAN DUNG BEETLE. AUSTRALIA HAS 30 MILLION HEAD OF CATTLE, EACH ACCOUNTING FOR TEN "PATS" A DAY; THREE MILLION ACRES ARE COVERED BY THE PATS, WHICH HARDEN AND STIFLE VEGETATION NEEDED FOR GRAZING. IN SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTS IN PARTS OF AUSTRALIA, DUNG BEETLES TUNNEL UP BENEATH THE PATS, SEPARATE THEM INTO PINHEAD-SIZE BALLS AND ROLL THEM INTO THEIR SHAFTS. WITHIN 24 HOURS, PATS DISAPPEAR.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 208318

SOME OTHER BENEFICIAL SIDE-EFFECTS: SOIL IS ENRICHED, EGGS OF BUSH AND BUFFALO FLIES WHICH BREED IN MANURE ARE KILLED. KISSINGER

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